

Wilcoxon House
N side of Rt. 9
West Henniker Village
Merrimack County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-203

HABS
NH,
7- HENWE,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILCOXEN HOUSE

HABS No. NH-203

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Location: N side of Rt. 9, West Henniker Village, Merrimack County, New Hampshire

Present Owner: Mrs. Evelyn Wilcoxen, same address.

Present Occupant: Same

Present Use: Private Residence and antique shop.

Brief Statement of significance: Fine example of rural New England interpretation of the Federal style. Also notable is the presence of an identical house directly across the road; the relationship between them is not known.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION.

A. PHYSICAL History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: As far as can be determined from a title search, Col. Imri Woods was the original owner. 1862 Col. Imri Woods sells to David P. Perkins /I71/110 Merrimack County Registry of Deeds/ 1869 Perkins sells to George W. Morrison /I99/377. 1875 Morrison sells to Ellen P. Brady /I99/4927. Brady sells to Andrew D. Favor /270/448; 18837. Gap in the Records. Property comes to Lovilla D. Rive; sold by her trustee Walter A. Connor to Frank C. Garland in 1905 /393/4457. 1919 Garland sells to Ella R. Hadley /437/807. 1921 Hadley sells to Avis and Ruth Ames /450/28774. Ames sells to Carroll and Mildred Hadley in 1925 /483/187. Hadley to James and Mildred Neagle in 1948 /649/4387. Neagle to Henry and Charlotte Lord in 1950 /689/3507. Lord to James and Evelyn Wilcoxen in 1953 /729/2737. Evelyn Wilcoxen to present.
2. Date of Erection: Unknown. Circa 1817-1830 based on style. House possibly built by Col Imri Woods (b.1789), a prosperous and prominent West Henniker clothier who lived in the town from 1817 until his death in 1868. /Cogswell, Leander W., History of Henniker, Concord, 1880, p. 7997.
3. Architect: Unknown
Builder, suppliers, etc: Unknown
4. Original plans, construction, etc: Unknown.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: No documentary references can be found.

6. Important old views: none known:

7. Sources of Information: Registry of Deeds for
Merrimack County. *

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

none known.

Prepared by: Charles B. Wood, III
New Hampshire Historical
Society
April 1964

*see also: Woods, Henry Ernest, The Woods Family
of Groton Mass, New England Historic and Genealogical
Register, 1910. Location: NHHS Library.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION.

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Brick construction; central-hall plan house; one room deep. Fine lines and proportions. Has been very sensitively restored. Ell on rear portion of house is of frame construction and is probably a slightly later addition.
2. Condition of Fabric: good, well maintained.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimenstions: Approximately 20 by 40 feet, main house.
2. Foundations: Smooth finished granite blocks; full cellar under main house. Under N gable end in cellar is brick constructed enclosure with brackets for shelves, probably used as a vegetable storage area.
3. wall construction: Brick laid in Flemish bond; iron plates to hold stansion rods visible on walls.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc: One story porch on N. side of house, a later addition.
5. Chimneys: Two, each in the center of and flush with the gable end walls. Large square chimney rises from ell roof.
6. Openings:
 1. Doorways and doors: Door opening framed by an elliptical arch with granite keystone in centre. Door embrasure panelled; fanlight ornament of wood in the form of radiating spokes (this is a very popular decorative device in the houses of this part of New Hampshire.) 6 panel replacement door.
 2. Windows and shutters: 12 over 12 double hung sash; Granite lintels on ground storey. 12 over 8 double hung sash in second storey the tops of which rest against the cornice. No shutters.
7. Roof:
 1. Shape, covering: hip roof, asphalt shingles.
 2. Cornice, eaves: Elaborate Tuscan cornice all around; emphasis on the horizontal effect created by same. All exterior woodwork painted brown to harmonize with colour of brick.

3. Dormers, cupolas: None

4. Roof Framing: Inaccessible

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans: First floor: central hall with straight flight of stairs; hall runs from front of house to rear; parlour north and south, bedrooms above. Thus only four rooms and stair hall to main house. Rear ell contains bath, dining room, kitchen, bedroom and small work room; storage loft above. What is today used as dining was originally kitchen.
2. Stairways: Straight run. Plain square balusters and newel. Simple scroll cut brackets. Good proportions.
3. Flooring: original wide boards, oiled.
4. Wall and Ceiling finish: All plastered, no wall paper. North parlor on ground floor has two walls with chair rail. Cove projecting cornices over fireplaces in north and south parlours, 1st floor.
5. Doorways and doors: all 6 panel doors surrounded by planed moldings.
6. Trim: very little in general. Window embrasures paneled in both rooms. Fireplace surround in South parlour probably taken from Plate 37, The American Builder's Companion by Asher Benjamin, (4th ed, 1820).
7. Hardware: All door knobs Victorian replacements. Butt hinges on doors.
8. Lighting: Electric fixtures.
9. Heating: Oil furnace, steam radiators.

D. Site:

1. Orientation: Facade faces South-east.
2. Enclosures: Line of Granite posts along south prop line.
3. Outbuildings: Barn and connecting woodshed, to north.
4. Walks, drives, etc: Parking area to N of house for Antique shop in Barn.
5. Landscaping: Evergreens across front of house.

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